



April '10 The Mountain Yodeler

History Night: April 24. See page 5
Easter activities: See page 5

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Water Rate Fight Continues

Lake Hughes urged to participate.

By Dahlia Grossman
Editor/publisher

Leona Valley continues to move forward in its fight against a 138% rate hike. "We're not going to let it happen," said town councilman Larry Tyler, one of the leaders of the fight.

Cal Water has asked for the rate hike in order to finance 52 capital improvements, according to Tyler. "Seven are completely objectionable," said Tyler at a special meeting on March 6.

Other proposed improvements appear to be extremely overpriced, according to the committee. And many residents want to know why Cal Water does not send out requests for bids. "Their favored contractors have no incentive to lower their prices to today's levels," said one resident at the meeting.

Lake Hughes, which is in the same water district, will also be affected by the rate

increase, but only by 122%!

A member of the committee stated at the March 6 meeting that if Leona Valley is the only community to protest the rate hikes, it may be put into a separate district. This could have serious implications for Lake Hughes if it does not assist in the fight. So far, only three people from Lake Hughes have made donations to the legal fund and no one has stepped forward to help the committee with research.

The rate increase will occur in three stages, starting in January 2011. Once the rates go up, they will not come down, even after the capital improvements are finished.

Lakes residents are urged to learn more about the water rate fight at <http://leona-valleytowncouncil.org/default.aspx> and to send donations to Leona Valley Town Council at P.O. Box 795, Leona Valley, CA 93551.



Congratulations to the three new Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes queens: Miss Lakes, Sarah Fitzgerald; Junior Miss Lakes, Ashley Rich; and Little Miss Lakes, Elyse Marie Carroll. See page 11 for article and more photos. Grossman photo.

Green Valley Cafe Under New Management

By Alesia Robertson
Contributing writer

We are excited to welcome Chuck and Tylene Lloyd as the new managers of the Green Valley Café. Chuck and Tylene are by no means new to the restaurant business. They are the current owners of the Scramblez restaurants located in the Antelope Valley.

The Lloyds have already started making welcome changes to the restaurant and its menu. The first change you will notice is that the prices have been lowered.

For those who have had an opportunity to dine at Scramblez, you will see that the menu is very similar to the Scramblez menu, with

such unexpected pleasures as eggs benedict for breakfast and a variety of salmon and steak dishes for dinner. They even have liver and onions!

Chuck and Tylene also have plans to enclose and redesign the patio area for an even more pleasurable dining experience.

Although they do plan on expanding the days they will be opened, their current hours of operation are: Friday and Saturday from 7 am to 9 pm and Sunday from 7 am to 4 pm.

Stop on by and enjoy the new friendly faces and great service we have had the pleasure of experiencing and look forward to each weekend.

Community Center Saved from Collapse

Construction workers unearthed many surprises while remodeling the east wing of the Lakes Community Center. While replacing the old wiring, they discovered 14 burnt electrical circuits and many live wires!

Another shocking discovery was made when workers ripped the old siding off the building. The cement slabs that were holding up the building had partially crumbled to dust.

"It's a miracle that this building hasn't either burned down or collapsed," said Bill Beeson, project coordinator. "It's a good thing we started remodeling now. It might not have lasted another year," he said.

Because of the unexpected expenses in saving the building, the cost of the remodeling will exceed the budget by \$10,000 to \$15,000, money which the community club does not have.

See Community Center
Page 2

CONTACT THE YODELER

Ads, payments and articles for the April 1 issue must be received by Apr. 15. Send submissions to dahlia.grossman@verizon.net and payments to Mountain Yodeler, Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

For more information, call 661-724-1293 or



Chuck and Tylene Lloyd are the new managers of Green Valley Cafe. Stop by and meet them. Robertson photo.

Community Center

from page 1

The board of directors are asking for your help. At the January meeting, the board and members voted to erect a plaque to commemorate people who donate money to the building fund. The categories will be as follows: \$10,000 - Benefactors; \$5,000 - Patrons; \$1,000 - Sponsors; \$500 - Supporters; and \$100 - Contributors.

The names of those who contribute between \$25 and \$99 will not be on the plaque, but they will be recognized in *The Mountain Yodeler*.

If you can help, please send your donation to Lakes Community Center, Box 166, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

Remember, this is the place that holds most of our community activities, such as 49ers Day, Easter Egg Hunt, Santa Claus Night, Vet Clinic, History Night, Movie Night, Boy Scouts, Explorer Scouts, AA meetings, martial arts classes, and private parties and memorial services.

We need your help!

Art Guild Plans Art and Artifacts Sale

Lakes and Valleys Art Guild to hold annual Art and Artifacts Sale at the Gallery on April 24 and 25.

Please contact Marilyn Lupica at 724- 1397 if you would like to donate any interesting items and treasures.

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SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

Marty Foster: *The Land Healer*

By Dahlia Grossman

Marty Foster of Marty's Tractors is known to his customers as "the land healer." And Marty surely deserves this nickname. For 15 years he has helped people in the Lakes and Valleys and the Antelope Valley with their dirt moving needs.

Marty says he did some of his most memorable jobs after the floods of 2005, when roads and bridges were washed out and mudslides destroyed homes and property.

"I put in culverts on a property near the Fairmont Reservoir where the people's bridge was washed out and they

had no way to get in and out of their property," said Marty. "There had been a beautiful story-book bridge, but the trees came down during the flood and washed it out. I moved the trees and installed a four-foot diameter culvert pipe so that the water could flow."

Marty moves creek beds back where they belong, moves boulders out of the roads and put the roads back together after the storms.

In between his bigger projects, such as re-compacting the dirt on a parcel that is scheduled for construction in Lake Hughes, Marty does weed abatement with his eight-foot-wide mower. "I can mow things down that are waist high," said Marty. "Mowing creates less dust and erosion than discing," he said.

One new aspect of his business is cleanup of properties. "If the county cites you for having trash on your property, I'll clean it up for you," said Marty.

Marty has lived in the area since 1987, when he moved here from Topanga Canyon. "I thought I was living in the country, but I really wasn't until I moved here," said Marty. After moving to Neenach, he worked for Peachland Farms for five years, but when they closed, he decided to start his own business. "I knew that I wanted to stay in the country and that I liked working with dirt. I really enjoy moving dirt around," said Marty. "It gives me personal satisfaction," he said.

Marty's greatest claim to fame is that he has been advertising continually in *The Mountain Yodeler* since the second issue - January 2001! He credits his ad with building his business and allowing him to purchase a second tractor and a backhoe. "The Mountain Yodeler has been good to me. I like to support the community," he said.

Whether the job is big or small, Marty does it right. "I take a lot of pride in my work," said Marty. "My goal is to always get the job done right the first time," he said. For an estimate, call Marty at 724-9180 or see his ad on page 15 of this issue.



Marty Foster of Marty's Tractors has been advertising in *The Mountain Yodeler* continuously since January 2001. Grossman photo.

Local Fire Station Personnel Save Resident's Life

Members of L.A. County Fire Station 140 of Leona Valley saved a man's life, according to resident Alice Benoit. Benoit told the Leona Valley Town Council that her neighbor had been experiencing neck and shoulder pain and called the fire department. "It turned out that he was having a heart attack," said Benoit. The man was taken to the hospital, where he underwent surgery and is recovering.

Humor

Senior Driving

As a senior citizen was driving down the freeway, his car phone rang.

Answering, he heard his wife's voice urgently warning him, "Herman, I just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 77. Please be careful!"

"Heck," said Herman. "It's not just one car. It's hundreds of them!"

Pet Vaccine Clinics Scheduled

By Vonnie, G.V.C.H. President

It's time again to vaccinate our beloved cats & dogs at one of the upcoming LOW COST clinics.

Dr. Dave and Janice Gantenbren are graciously donating their time and efforts once again to provide these low cost convenient clinics. NO LONG TRIPS TO TOWN, with numerous (often unhappy) pets, no office fee and minimal cost for each vaccine needed. All proceeds from these clinics go back into the individual community "center" to help maintain the buildings and property.

SO PLEASE, if paying by check, have the courtesy to have sufficient funds in your

account to cover the check amount.

Most of us would like these clinics to continue, but if services provided continue to cost the volunteers additional fees, these convenient clinics may become history.

CLINIC DATES

Leona Valley Comm. Bldg.
Sat., April 17, 11 am - 1 pm
Thurs., June 17, 6 - 7:30 pm

Lakes Community Center
Sat.: May 8, 1 - 2:30 pm

Green Valley Comm. Hall
Sat., May 29, 11 am - 1 pm
Sat., Sept. 18, 11 am - 1 pm

Little League Fundraiser April 16

The Lakes Little League is holding a fundraising dinner at The Ranch Banquet Room on Friday, April 16 from 5 to 8 pm.

A pasta dinner with salad and bread will be served. Soft drinks and water will also be available for purchase. The night will feature a raffle with prizes, including rounds of golf at The Ranch and a silent auction.

Tickets are available for purchase during games at the Lakes Snack Bar or at the door. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 2-12 (under 2 free). All proceeds go directly back into the Lakes Little League for maintenance and improvement of the baseball fields.

Anyone wishing to donate a prize, purchase tickets or find out more about the fundraiser may contact Fundraising Chairperson Candice Traweck at (661) 270-0180 or League President Greg Messineo at (661) 917-1671 or email lakeslittleleague@roadrunner.com.

Also, check the Lakes Little League website for updates and more information about Little League Baseball and Softball at www.eteamz.com/Lakes.

Sarah Hambro Wins 8th Grade Spelling Bee

Sarah Hambro is 13 years old and is in the 8th grade at HELUS. Sarah enjoys singing, reading, dancing, and playing and listening to music. She also enjoys playing the piano.

Sarah has a younger brother named Ryan.

You may have also heard Sarah's name in the Reflections contest when she moved on to state finals.

Sarah recently participated in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee in North Hollywood. She placed 9th out of 50 participants who represented school districts in Los Angeles.

Sarah is a straight A student and has very high expectations for herself.

She would like to thank her mother, Theresa Hambro, for helping her practice her spelling words.

Submitted by April Noon (8th grade)



HUGE YARD SALE

Saturday, May 1
8 am to 3 pm

In the parking lot of the
Lakes Community Center



Please donate items for us to sell.

We can pick up your items any time in April.
Call Judy at 724-2382 or Dahlia at 724-1293.

You can also drop off items on the day of the sale between 6 am and 10 am.

All money raised will be used by the Lakes Woman's Club for charitable donations to help local, national and international organizations.



Lakes Town Council President Jim Walker presents Lakes resident Michelle Hamilton with a commendation at the March meeting of the town council. Grossman photo.

Michelle Hamilton Honored

The Lakes Town Council awarded the following commendation to Michelle Hamilton at its March meeting:

Whereas, the Lakes Town Council desires to recognize and commend individuals of the Lakes Community that perform extraordinary acts of kindness, and;

Whereas, Michelle Hamilton, a Lakes Community resident, on the evening of December 9, 2009 stopped to assist a distressed motorist on Avenue J, after noticing the motorist waving frantically for assistance, and after other drivers failed to stop; and

Whereas, Michelle Hamilton, after stopping to assist, discovered the female motorist was in labor and was on her way to the hospital to give birth but instead pulled over to seek assistance due to the urgency of an oncoming birth; and

Whereas, Michelle Hamilton's acted expeditiously, requesting the mother to lie down on the backseat of the vehicle, and then proceeded to assist in the successful delivery of a newborn

child; and

Whereas, Michelle Hamilton determined the child was breathing normally and placed the newborn in a blanket taken from her personal vehicle, and then presented the bundled baby to the new Mother and remained with the mother and newborn until emergency services arrived on the scene; and

Now, therefore, we, the members of the Lakes Town Council, resolve that Michelle Hamilton deserves commendation and recognition for her extraordinary act of kindness.

According to Michelle, the woman named the baby Autumn Rose. She had pulled down a Christmas tree from the attic and put herself into labor three weeks early.

"Don't be afraid to stop and help somebody," said Michelle."

By Dahlia Grossman Thefts

Resident Deputy Bob Schneider reported that there were three recent thefts in the area. "They were crimes of opportunity," said Schneider at the Lakes Town Council's March 6 meeting. "Items were stolen from the beds of pickup trucks and unsecured vehicles and gas was siphoned from a vehicle," he said.

Painted Turtle Update

Schneider also told residents that three or four juvenile suspects have been identified in regards to the recent vandalism at The Painted Turtle Camp. "We think they are also responsible for at least one incident at the Lakes Community Center and the breakin at a vacant home in Elizabeth Lake," said the deputy.

"A couple of these kids are pretty bad and I wouldn't

be surprised if they are tied to the mail theft," he said.

Schneider advised residents to report all crimes, no matter how small, including mail theft, by calling him at the station.

Early Release

Deputy Robert Ferrell reported that in a probation sweep of 10 houses in Lake Los Angeles, his team arrested four people. "We are doing a lot of probation and parole sweeps," he said. Ferrell also reported that the state is starting to release what they consider non-violent, non-threatening prisoners on "non-supervised parole" before their sentences are served.

According to Deputy Ferrell, these people will not have to report to parole officers, but they will still be subject to search and seizure without probable cause. Between now and the end of

July, 30 inmates will be paroled out of the Lancaster prison.

Ferrell also noted that Supervisor Antonovich has given his team several winches for its trucks to facilitate in the cleanup of squatter camps. There were no budget cuts for this team, according to Ferrell.

Trespassing and Vandalism at Lake Eliz.

Town Council President Jim Walker received an email saying that someone was cutting down trees on land adjacent to the lake. This is private property. "It's trespassing and vandalism," said Deputy Schneider. Resident Teri Gordon added that the owner of the lake needs to be notified of this activity and advised to put up "no trespassing" signs. If you see anyone engaged in this type of activity, please advise them that it is illegal.

JV

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Church of the Lakes "Call on us when you are overwhelmed."

Living in Southern California has taught us to value our emergency response teams. Whether it is fire, flood, earthquake or lesser disasters, we can depend on those who rush to our aid in the face of danger.

Church of the Lakes would like to be the place and the people you call on when life threatens to overwhelm you.

Let us be your emergency response team when you wonder if God really exists. We are here for you when you are afraid to come to church; when you are afraid to pray because maybe God won't hear and won't answer. We are here to help.

Check us out. We are your community's Church of the Lakes and we would welcome the opportunity to be your emergency response team. Let us help you connect with God.

Sunday worship begins at 10:00 a.m. Join us for a special Easter celebration with a potluck breakfast at the Lakes Community Center at 8 a.m. followed by worship at the Church of the Lakes (across from the Community Center) at 10:00 a.m.

Open to the community. We look forward to meeting you!

Rev. Joanne Oemig,
Pastor

History Night Planned for April 24 at Lakes Community Center

The Lakes Community Center will be putting on a History Night Dinner fundraiser presentation for the continued restoration of our historic building. The building has been going through a much needed reconstruction after 80 years of deterioration that age brings on. This well used and loved building is our Town Hall and meeting place for many of our local organizations and our great 49'er Festival. We hope to be able to continue to be good stewards and reconstruct this building in its original form with some modern updates.

The history presentation will show the recorded damage and the restored portions of the east wing - formally known as the caretaker's quarters and our single bathroom.

The second half of our presentation will be on the building's history through a movie of the Civilian Conservation Corp, the organization that was created to put people back to work during the Great Depression of 1929.

We hope to also have a guest speaker to talk about our building and its history. Later in the evening, there will be an open forum for local impute and sharing of stories about the historic buildings' past.

Please join us on Saturday, April 24 at 6 pm for a fun and educational evening and to participate in this much needed fundraiser to help save our building. Because of limited space only 75 tickets will be available, so please purchase early. Food and drinks will be included with the presentation for \$15. Beer and wine will be available for an additional cost. We have had three past history nights that have always sold out. Please call 724-2490 for tickets.

Submitted by Bill Beeson

Easter Breakfast / Egg Hunts Scheduled

Lake Hughes

Saturday, April 3, 10 am
Easter Egg Hunt
Sponsored by Lakes
Community Center

Sunday, 8 am
Potluck breakfast at the
Lakes Community Center
Sponsored by Church of the
Lakes

Green Valley

Sunday, April 4
Breakfast 8 - 11 am
Easter Egg Hunt - 11 am
The egg hunt is free with the
purchase of breakfast.
Without breakfast, the egg
hunt is \$1.00.
Sponsored by Green Valley
Community Hall

Leona Valley

Saturday, April 3
Membership breakfast: 7:30
Free to members
(You can join that morning.)
Easter Egg Hunt - 10 am
Sponsored by LVIA

All events are at the commu-
nity center buildings.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Church of the Lakes

43728 No. Mountain View Road
Lake Hughes

Friday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.



Come enjoy a good movie,
munch popcorn & other
goodies, and visit with
friends and neighbors.

It's all FREE!!!

A heroic fireman (Kirk Cameron) in a failing marriage takes up his father's challenge to be part of a 40-day experiment designed to teach both husband and wife the real meaning of commitment.

Cast: Kirk Cameron, Erin Bethea, Ken Bevel, Harris Malcolm, Jason McLeod. Rated PG for thematic material and some peril.

For more information, call Barbara at 609-1906
or Gene at 264-7279.

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"Visit by Sheriffs Team was Overkill," says Leona Valley Resident

The Palmdale Sheriffs Department Nuisance Abatement Team has gone into overkill, according to a Leona Valley man. Frank Philips told the town council at the March 8 meeting that several law enforcement personnel appeared at his door on March 2, seriously frightening his wife and elderly mother-in-law. "They were extremely aggressive," said Philips.

Philips said they questioned him about a mobile home parked on his property. "The mobile home has been there for 33 years," said Philips, who stated that his mother-in-law lives in it. "If there's a zoning violation, fine, let's deal with it in a civilized manner."

"My concern was the show of force for a suspected code violation. I've been here since 1965 and I've never witnessed anything like it. My mother-in-law, who was in Paris when the Germans rolled through, has never been so intimidated," he said.

According to Philips, the officers did not have a warrant so he asked them to leave, which they did.

Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich, apologized for the family's ordeal and said he would find out

why the incident had occurred. Hickling explained that the normal procedure on a suspected zoning violation is for Regional Planning to inspect the property. If they think there is illegal activity going on, they send the Nuisance Abatement Team to investigate.

Resident Deputy Bob Schneider said that a Mr. Derringer from Regional Planning had received an anonymous call about the property. "Based on his investigation, he felt it was necessary to bring the Nuisance Abatement Team out," said Schneider.

Deputy Rob Ferrell, head of the Nuisance Abatement Team, arrived at the meeting after Philips had left. He explained that the "rifles" carried by these law enforcement officers were only for protection against aggressive dogs and that they were only loaded with talcum powder.

Ferrell said he would give a presentation at the next town council meeting explaining the procedures of Regional Planning and the Nuisance Abatement Team when they get a complaint about a possible zoning violation.

The meeting will be held at 7 pm on April 12.



Jack Kimberly

Say Goodbye to Donna and Roger Gillen April 3

Roger and Donna Gillen are leaving the area after 32 years as residents of Lake Hughes. They will be honored at the Lakes and Valleys Art Guild Poppy Exhibition opening on April 3, 2010, at 1 p.m.

Donna is an active member of the Guild, and Roger has been active in a wide variety of civic organizations since arriving here in 1978.

The reception is potluck, so contact Norm Judd at 661-724-1742 if you want to bring a food dish.

The Lakes and Valleys Art Guild is located on Lake Hughes Road about 1/10 mile south of Elizabeth Lake Road.

Report Nuisances

To report a nuisance, such as numerous unregistered vehicles on a property, people living in campers or rundown trailers, animal abuse or piles of junk on a property, call 211 from your landline. To speak to Deputy Ferrell or leave him a message, call 272-2418.

In Loving Memory of John "Jack" Kimberly

By Glenn McConnell
Contributing writer

On March 5, 2010, long-time Green Valley resident John Henry "Jack" Kimberly went home to be with the Lord. He was 91 years old. Jack was preceded in death by his wife of 30 years, June Kimberly, who passed away in May of 2009 after a four-year battle with cancer.

Jack was born in Canada. He was one of 13 children. In his early years, Jack worked with his dad drilling water wells along the railroad paths. Back then, the locomotives were steam powered and had to stop frequently to fill up with water.

Jack had one son by the name of John who still lives in Canada along with eight grandchildren. June had two children, Alan and Alana.

Jack worked in various occupations throughout his life. He did hard rock mining,

was a real estate agent in Beverly Hills, a property manager and also worked for the fish and game department.

During World War II, Jack served in the Canadian Armed Forces and held the rank of sergeant. Jack was taken a prisoner of war (POW) and he gained the nickname "The Great Escaper." Jack had escaped from four POW camps! While in the service, he held the title of Canadian heavy-weight boxing champ.

Jack was a very active, long-time member of the Quartz Hill Foursquare Church. He was also a member of the Full Gospel Businessman's Association. Jack did not hesitate to share his love for his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

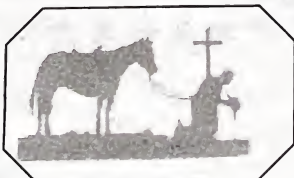
Jack, thank you for a life of giving to God, country and family. Rest in peace my brother.

NEW LEONA VALLEY LOCATION FOR PINKER'S PLACE IS SET TO OPEN SOON. SEE THE MAY YODELER FOR DETAILS!!

Code 7 Ministries

A food ministry serving the Lakes and Valleys.

If you are in need of food or have food to donate (canned goods or dry goods), call Glenn at 270-9016.



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Lakes Town Council Issues Resolution to Protect Lake

The Lakes Town Council issued the following resolution regarding the private side of Lake Elizabeth at the March meeting.

RESOLUTION

Relative to acquiring, protecting and preserving the privately held portion of Elizabeth Lake

Whereas, Elizabeth Lake is located in the rural community of its namesake, Elizabeth Lake, and is in the rural and unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, approximately thirty-five miles northeast of the City of Los Angeles, twenty miles west of the Antelope Valley, and twenty-five miles northeast of the Santa Clarita Valley; and

Whereas, Elizabeth Lake is Los Angeles County's largest natural lake comprised of one-hundred-seventy-five acres of surrounding wetlands, marsh and riparian forest, and includes one-hundred-eleven acres of open water, and provides habitat to over one-hundred-thirty-eight wildlife species, including numerous sensitive species; and

Whereas, a 2007 and 2008 Conservation Land Group Inc. biological survey reported twenty butterfly species, ten amphibian/reptile species, ninety-six bird species, eleven mammal species, and eighty-nine native and non-native plants were observed on the property; and

Whereas, some of the bird species, include the Southwestern Willow flycatcher, Tricolored Blackbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow Warbler, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Loggerhead, Black-crowned Night Heron, and the American Bald Eagle; and

Whereas, it is essential that the natural resources and habitats of Elizabeth Lake be preserved and free from elimination, major disturbance and/or destruction, and that the trees, plant life, butterflies, birds, mammals, and aquatic species be permitted to flourish and prosper; and

Whereas, the privately owned portion of Elizabeth Lake is immediately adjacent and partially contiguous to the United States Forest Service ("USFS") property, also known as Elizabeth Lake (USFS), and whereas the private side of the lake has been historically accessible, albeit without permission or denial of access by the present owner, for area residents, visitors and tourists to enjoy fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and bird watching, as well as enjoying the peace, quiet and tranquility of the lake and observing its habitat; and

Whereas, our children, families and future generations deserve natural places to observe and enjoy nature, and Elizabeth Lake is such a unique and natural place for children, families, and nature enthusiasts to commune with and enjoy nature; and

Whereas, the citizens of Elizabeth Lake,

Lake Hughes and other surrounding communities strongly endorse, support and encourage the preservation and protection of Elizabeth Lake as a vital and important natural resource that will, if preserved, provide a public benefit for generations to come; and

Whereas, the habitat, although privately held and left unaltered and undisturbed for decades, would be, in all likelihood, significantly altered, disturbed and/or destroyed by development and high impact water sports; and

Whereas, this private property is now listed for sale as suitable for commercial and resort/recreational development, and advertised for use as a marina, an outdoor sporting venue suitable for jet skiing and water skiing, hunt and fishing club, campground, corporate retreat facility, and suitable for building cabins; and

Whereas, the citizens of Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes, more commonly known as the Lakes community, are represented by a local town council, and the council, through community meetings and citizen input, listens to the interests of the community as a whole and then conveys those interests to county, state and federal officials; and

Whereas, the Lakes Town Council desires to make public the vital interests of the citizens of the Lakes and other surrounding communities are to preserve and protect Elizabeth Lake and all of its open space, natural beauty and resources and to make available such beauty and resource for public benefit.

Now, therefore, we, the members of the Lakes Town council, and the citizens of the Lakes Community, resolve and strongly call upon our elected county, state and federal representatives to direct the necessary public resources for the purpose of promoting, facilitating, and coordinating the acquisition, protection and preservation of the privately owned land at Elizabeth Lake.

Resolution presented and adopted this day March 6, 2010 at Lake Hughes, California:

Jim Walker
Chuck Kewitch
Tad Summers
Karen Graham
Doris Karabinus

Cleanup Day at Lake Elizabeth on Earth Day

By Kevin Braucksieker

The Lakes and Valleys Conservancy will be sponsoring a trash pick up contest and fundraiser in honor of Earth Day. Prizes will be given for the most trash picked up around parts of Elizabeth Lake.

The plan is to have four-member teams. There's a modest \$20 entry fee for each team and they will receive two free Lakes and Valleys Conservancy "Friends of the Lake" t-shirts, designed by graphic artist Stefani Palmer of Snowflake Studios. Prizes to date include a \$100 Chevron gas card, restaurant gift certificates, original art and more.

Lakes and Valleys Conservancy President Louisa Stephen is encouraged by the amount of community support the planning of the event has generated. "This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together both in celebration of Earth Day and in support of the Conservancy's efforts to save the lake. The donations for prizes are still coming in and I'm amazed at people's generosity."

Conservancy volunteer Christine Cody, a freshman at Quartz Hill High School, enjoys

canoeing on the lake and observing the wildlife, especially the ducks. "I want to volunteer so no developments come up here and destroy the animals' habitats. Earth Day is really important because it helps people to save the earth."

Local businesses, including *The Mountain Yodeler*, will be named on the t-shirts as sponsors. Members of the Volunteers on patrol will help out at the event, as well.

Volunteer Karen Graham is hopeful that the event will raise money for the Conservancy and get people more involved. "Besides, it's just going to be a lot of fun. This is the sort of event that's great for families or just getting together with friends."

The event takes place on Saturday, April 24, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Meet at the Ranch at Elizabeth Lake (formerly the Greenside Grill) at the corner of Ranch Club and Elizabeth Lake roads. Register early by calling 661.886.3015 or email info@lakesandvalleysconservancy.org

Please bring gloves.

(See related article, page 17)

THE MOUNTAIN YODELER

Editor/Publisher - Dahlia Grossman

Staff writer: Lu Bole

Contributing writers: Dawn Baertlein, Glenn McConnell, Robert Kerekes, Linda-Marcella Berg, Laura "cha" Vernetti, Kevin Braucksieker, Bill Beeson, Bob Mallicoat

Production: Dahlia Grossman, Al Carlson

Art Editor: Todd Cooper; Soldier's Page Editor: Jan Carlson

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Ads must be prepaid. Submit ads with payment to Dahlia Grossman, Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532. For advertising rates, see business directory. For more information about ads, email: dahlia.grossman@Verizon.net or call 724-1293.

ARTICLES/PHOTOS: Deadline is 15th of the month. Please email to dahlia.grossman@Verizon.net or mail to Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$25/year, bulk rate; \$35/year, first class. Send check to Dahlia Grossman, Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

DISTRIBUTION: 2,500 copies.

Fire Safe Council Report

By Laura "cha" Verneti, contributing writer
CERT Training Class Being Organized

Are you CERT trained? We would love to hear from you. Thanks to the efforts of residents in our communities, great progress has been made at the request of L.A. County Sheriff and L.A. County Fire Department, for the organization of local CERT teams. If you are CERT trained and have not joined us yet, please call the squad leader in your community. Their names and contact information has been in the last two editions of *The Mountain Yodeler*.

Have you ever thought of getting CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) trained? The training is actually very interesting and really gets you thinking about emergency preparedness for yourself, family and community. A CERT class for Green Valley is being organized. PLEASE consider joining us. For more information please call Vonnie 270-1208 or the Fire Safe Council at 270-9911.

HAM Operators Needed

Our Communication Officer, Doris Karabinus, has made great progress organizing local ham operators and communication to all the communities. A special thanks needs to go to Doris for all her hard work and perseverance. If you are a ham operator we need your help. Please contact Doris at 609-3888. Leona Valley especially needs ham operators to sign up.

Planned Burns Scheduled

It has been great having District Ranger Bob Blount at

FSC meetings and town council meetings. He really makes the effort to update our communities on upcoming events. He said there are some pile burns scheduled and mastication on the Leona Divide. If you see smoke it may be one of those burns, but don't hesitate to call us anyway because you can never be too cautious when it comes to wildfires.

Weed Abatement

This year's County's Weed Abatement notices have a new look. Many residents are concerned about the statement that "April 1, 2010" inspections of vacant land will begin and that property owners may be charged for that inspection.

The Fire Safe Council was able to confirm with both John Cervantes, Green Valley inspector and David Bracken, Leona Valley and Lakes inspector, that the deadline for brush clearance on vacant land in our communities is the same as normal, June 1, 2010.

Whether you do your own weed abatement or have someone else, like the FSC, clear your brush it is important that you respond to the county's letter stating you will be taking care of the weed abatement.

If you are tired of being assessed outrageous amounts of money by the county on your property tax bill for brush clearance, you may want to consider the Fire Safe Council. We can clear your weeds for a fraction of the cost. We can also help you get the 100-foot clearance around your home that is required by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Using your Fire Safe Council for your weed abatement and brush clearance supports your community. Not only do we provide emergency preparedness, we also provide low- and no-cost brush clearance. We are fully insured and can provide services for much less than others are charging. Even if you aren't quite ready you can schedule your job in

advance to insure it is completed by the deadline. For a FREE estimate or for more information please call Betty at 270-9911.

The FSC brush clearance crew's schedule is already filling up. Many resident of Green Valley, Leona Valley and the Lakes took our advice and scheduled their jobs early for future dates. Customers who make appointments first will be given priority. We will notify the county what properties are on our list and when they are scheduled.

Free Chipping Day GV Dumpster Day

FREE CHIPPING DAYS are back. The FSC will be assisting the U.S.D.A. Forest Service's Green Valley FREE CHIPPING DAY again this year. The event will be held June 5, 2010 at the Green Valley Community Hall. The GV Town Council Dumpster Day will also be on June 5, 2010. Dates for the Lakes Free Chipping has not been determined.

If you would like to know more about what we do please join us at our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, alternating among Leona Valley, Green Valley and Lake Hughes. The next couple of meetings are Lakes April 7, and May 5 in Green Valley.

We are a non-profit organization and have status (501(c)(3)) from the IRS; all donations are tax deductible.

For further information on our many programs please contact Betty Young at (661) 270-9911, or visit our website at <http://afvlfsc.org/> or the California Fire Safe Council <http://www.firesafecouncil.org> / or email us at afvlfsc@roadrunner.com.

**If you see news happening, call
 The Mountain
 Yodeler at 661-
 724-1293 or 965-
 2201.**

HELUS Spelling Bee Winners

1st Grade: 1st place: Maddie Coobs and Hailey Emerson, 2nd none, 3rd place: Mackenzie Mercier. Other contestants: Rylie Batt, Christian Jackson, Jacob Williams.

2nd Grade: 1st Deniali Campbell, 2nd: Rhiannon White, 3rd: Taiz Rodriguez. Other contestants: Cody Ziegler, Faith Deaville, Kayla Skelton

3rd Grade: 1st Logan Batt, 2nd Michael Sherrick, 3rd Miriam Ledoux. Other contestants: Ravin Johnson, Nevin Tilch, Daniel Roman

4th Grade: 1st Kaytlynn Sharp, 2nd Molly Cook, 3rd Thomas Benz. Other contestants: Adrian Monroe, Meghan Smith, Brooke Thomas


5th Grade: 1st Adam Lockwood, 2nd Emily Miller, 3rd Katy Jackson. Other contestants: Maya Turner, Dani Beck, Justin Fair

6th Grade: 1st Kailee Campbell, 2nd Patrick Krevi, 3rd Alexandra Wilsford. Other contestants: Garrett Williams, Jaz Sanchez, Aaron Erickson

7th Grade: 1st Elizabeth Hall, 2nd Marina Garcia, 3rd Ashley Gomez. Other contestants: Aspen Muskovich, Amber Sabo, Kaelin Miller

8th Grade: 1st Sarah Hambro, 2nd Samantha Ocampo, 3rd Lance Graft. Other contestants: Nohel Cota, Alex Alecarez, Alec Franco

See photos on page 13.



HOME RENTALS

by
PJ deHaas Properties, Inc.

\$775	9331 Northside Dr – Leona Valley (Guest House) 1 bedroom, 1 bath, living room w/wood stove, water included, no pets, no smoking, all electric.
\$850	39300 Bouquet Canyon Rd – Leona Valley (Guest House) Newly remodeled Studio, stove, microwave, washer/dryer water, & electric included.
\$850	20538 Pine Canyon Rd – Lake Hughes (Guest House) 1 bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen open to living room, knotty pine tongue & groove walls & vaulted ceiling, propane heat, water & power included.
\$950	43708 Log Cabin Trail – Lake Hughes 1 bedroom, 1 bath, den/sunroom/2nd bedroom, large living room w/woodstove, remodeled kitchen w/hickory cabinets, pets ok w/deposit.
\$1000	18268 Pine Canyon Rd. – Lake Hughes 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, fireplace, water, trash, gardener included, no smokers, no pets
\$1100	18520 Pine Canyon Rd. – Lake Hughes 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, fireplace, country kitchen, laundry room, includes water and cable on acreage.
\$1200	40202 Calle El Clavelito – Green Valley 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, cozy eat-in kitchen, living room w/rock fireplace, dining room/den with woodstove, laundry room and nice yard space.

For more information call PJ deHaas Properties, Inc.
(661)724-2592

HELUS Nominated as Distinguished School

By Diane Parkins
Principal/Superintendent

I wanted to take a few minutes of your reading time to introduce myself to you as the new Superintendent / Principal of Hughes Elizabeth Lakes Union School District in Lake Hughes and tell you some of the great things that are going on in our school district. I have been on the job since January and I find that I am enjoying this job more each day. We do have our budget issues like all school districts in the state but there are some things you should know about your school district that you should be proud of as a community.

We will be able to keep small class sizes for the 2010-2011 school year and are proud of the fact that we will be the only school in the Antelope Valley that will have these small class sizes. Your children that attend this school are able to continue to get attention in small groups to insure they are receiving the best education and learning what they need to be successful in life.

We have been nominated as a California Distinguished School because of the hard work of the entire staff of meeting the needs of our students and developing programs that make students successful. We will be recognized for that hard work that continues and we hope to receive the official notification by end of April.

We have a high quality staff with teachers who have worked hard to make sure each and every student succeeds. Our teachers have the skills necessary to make all students successful both academically and socially. Staff who work at our school have their students attend here because of the attention their own children receive. One of the highest compliments to a school is to have the staff have their own chil-

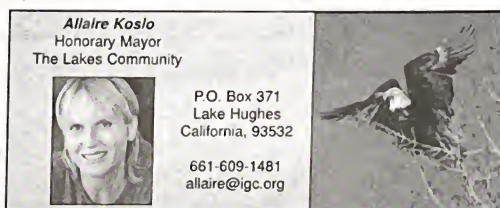
dren attend the school where they work—that happens here.

We will be having our Kindergarten roundup soon (April 27 at 4:00) so if you have a student who is ready to enter Kindergarten be sure to come and visit our campus and see firsthand how wonderful our school is for children and parents.

We will also be beginning a new program next year for parents who home school their children. This will be a unique partnership where you can continue to home school your children while taking advantage of all the benefits of being attached to the Hughes Elizabeth Lakes School. Look for more information and an announcement of a meeting in April or May.

I again just want to let you know how fortunate I am to be able to work in such a beautiful place with such a well kept secret of small classes and dedicated staff. If you would like to visit at any time to see our beautiful campus and classrooms, please feel free to come by and I or someone on staff would be happy to show you around!! As any of your friends and neighbors that have children attending our school—they will tell you what a wonderful place it is to learn!

Hughes Elizabeth Lakes Union School District provides an excellent education in an atmosphere that supports students as they develop into outstanding members of the community. We will not rest until we have high levels of achievement for all students. We will attain this goal through a total commitment to building trusting, open and honest communication, and long-term dedication to the ongoing success of each student.



Earth Day is Every Day Every Day is Earth Day

By Honorary Mayor Allaire Koslo

Every Day is Earth Day, Consume Less Day, Pick Up Trash and Recyclables and Cleanup Day!

How do we create less of an ecological footprint? How do we lower our carbon emissions? We lead "clean" lives.

We start with a simple lifestyle. Live simply so others can simply live. Consume only what you need. Consumption is a disease.

These are concepts and slogans that one may believe in and practice or not. We have that freedom.

There is the book: *50 Ways to Save the Earth*. Perhaps it could be more truthfully titled: *50 Ways to Save Your Own Life and your children's lives and so on*.

"Act locally, think globally" is another phrase for better living. I "act" locally through service deeds such as cleaning up the roadways with Adopt-a-Highway. Annually along my ten miles I collect hundreds and hundreds of pounds of trash and recyclables and around the lakes as well.

I raise money for the Lakes Community Center by running for Honorary Mayor.

I acknowledged my La Leche League co-leaders on February 6 as one of the most important environmental statements and deeds and "services" to my community by helping other mothers to breast feed. Breast feeding is "green" in that it saves money! It is green in that there are no bottles needed,

no formula products, just a healthy nursing mother and baby. It is in our nature to nurture and breastfeed.

So where Nature is our Neighbor, our local Leona Divide 50 mile/50 K run will take place on April 17 in our mountains and on our beautiful Pacific Crest Trail and Forest Service roads. I shall be running; join me! There is still time to sign up. The 26-35 mile training run on March 13 was gorgeous, running in the snow! We had 26 runners and three of us were local!

Milt Stark, our local historian and expert on wildflowers showed us a sign at The

Audubon Society meeting on March 2: "Take nothing but photographs. Leave nothing but footprints. Kill nothing but time."

Photos taken March 1 by Jim Walker of our two visiting juvenile Bald Eagles here in Elizabeth Lake were presented. (See page 1) In addition, the Lakes Town Council passed the Lake Resolution on March 6th which supports preservation and protection of our lakes.

A healthy planet and healthy people is good. Breastfeeding is good. Fitness is good. I am for all of this and I am for the Lakes.

And so I encourage us all to walk the talk, to pick up trash not only on Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day), but everyday. Let us practice daily Earth Day love, which is self-love.

A citizens action group has formed so please join us; we who are proud advocates and activists for our lakes. Join me in making a difference in our community. Call me!

For the Earth, Allaire
661.609.1481.

THE ROCK INN

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The Art Page

Todd Cooper
Art Editor

state of the ART in our community

A Snappy Comeback Reference Guide for Plein Air Painters

by Larry Moore

Any of you who paint outdoors know that we are intentionally setting ourselves up for public annoyances in the form of curious minded people who happen to ask the same questions over and over. So I've devised a series of responses for you to use. I've field tested most of them, but be advised timing and delivery are essential:

1) Are you an artist?

- a) You can't tell?
- b) (moving your brush rapidly through your painting, messing it up as if you were startled) Holy Crap! You scared the bejeezus out of me. Makes some noise next time, (sobbing) my masterpiece is ruined.....
- c) well, no. but my psychiatrist says it'll help quiet the voices.

d) has anyone told you that your feet are very attractive?

e) You know, I don't tell many people this but I'm actually a hit-man.

f) I'm an actor. You may have seen me in Ghost Busters as the Stay-Puft marshmallow man.

2) Is this a profession or a hobby?

a) It's the profession that pays like a hobby!

3) What are you painting?

a) you can't tell?

b) Mans inhumanity to man and his relentless quest for death.

c) a domed stupa within a truncated pyramid—semi-interred within a gentle Andalusian countryside

4) Hey, if I stand here long enough, will you paint me into your picture?

- a) okay but it'll take me a couple of days.
- b) I'll put you in metaphorically as a rock.
- c) I don't do wildlife.
- d) In a serious tone...

"okay, stand still, now lift your leg up... good now stretch out your arms, higher. Great, now wet your lips and pretend to whistle. work it. yeah! got it.

You know, i've worked with better but you have that mysterious Je ne cest quoi! Do you have an agent?

e) I only do nudes, take off your wife beater and shorts

and we'll get started.

f) Okay but you'll have to shave your back first.

5) Oh great, another landscape painter.

a) Oh great, another clown on a bike.

b) Oh great another clown with a dog.

c) Your bar has last call at 9am? (or whatever the current time is)

d) Do I follow your truck around and critique your waste management skills?

6) My grandmother was an artist!

a) that's awesome, mine was just killed by a grizzly.

b) Yeah mine would get drunk and tape us all to the couch and make us watch Lawrence Welk, thanks for the reminder.

c) If I had a dollar for every time someone said that, I could afford a decent attorney for my grandmother.

d) (haltingly) Wow.... If only.... if only... I..... If only I cared.

e) That is so cool!

7) I can't paint. I wasn't born with the talent.

a) thank god.

b) you aren't born with it, you earn it.

c) you can be anything you want to be. you are magnificent. now go away.

8) Do you sell your paintings?

a) Not really.

b) Mostly I trade these to my drug dealer for crack. He's very erudite.

c) Actually, this is the only one I have ever done.

d) Oh, I'm not a professional, this is just part of a work-release program.

9) \$1400, is that your best price?

a) Well no, actually \$12,000 is my best price. I like the way you do business.

10) How long you been paintin'?

a) Hour and a half

b) 35 years and about an hour and a half

c) How long have you had that mullet?

d) Since before those cut-off jean shorts with the frayed ends you are wearing went out of style.

11) Wanna paint a nude of me?

a) "Okay, the sooner you get naked, the sooner we'll get this over with. Sound familiar?"

b) "How refreshing, a guy who wants to show me his penis!"

c) "You bet! Go on home and slap some nair on that shag rug you call your back and we'll get going."

d) "You know, I have not seen a naked man since my herpes tests came back."

e) "Just curious, are you allergic to mace?"

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Open Saturday & Sunday
10am - 4pm

Reception
Saturday
Apr. 3
Noon-4pm

2010 ART AND ARTIFACTS YARD SALE

The weekend of April 24th and 25th will see the return of our annual Spring yard sale fundraiser. This year we will be doing some new things. Artists selling their works and our yard sale of donated items we will also be having a member Bake Sale! If you

don't have items to donate or want to sell your art, bake up something to sell instead! Marilyn Lupica will be coordinating donated items this year. Call Marilyn at: 724-1397 if you have items to donate. Sign up at the Gallery for the bake sale or booth space.

LVAG NOTES

Members! Sign up for gallery sitting! Just put your name on the calendar at the gallery.

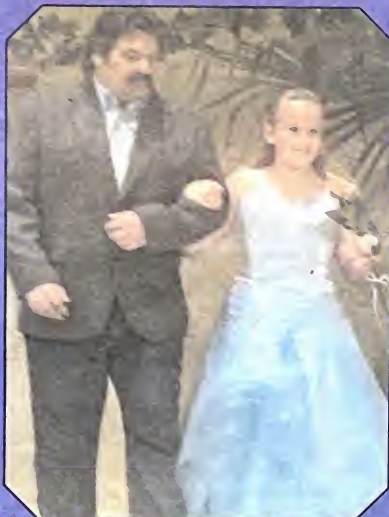
LVAG logo merchandise is available at www.zazzle.com/TheCoyoteStudios/LVAG

The next LVAG general meeting will be Sunday April 25, 2010, 2pm, at the Lakes & Valleys Gallery, 43751 Lake Hughes Rd, Lake Hughes.

LAKES QUEEN PAGEANT



2010 Miss Lakes, Sarah Fitzgerald, takes her first walk.



2010 Junior Miss Ashley Rich is escorted by her father, Wade Rich.



2010 Little Miss Lakes, Elyse Carroll, takes her first walk.



Miss Lakes princess, Nicola Hamilton, does her commercial.

Photos: Dahlia Grossman

Congratulations to our new Lakes queens: Miss Lakes Sarah Marie Fitzgerald, Junior Miss Ashley Rich, and Little Miss Elyse Marie Carroll. Sarah is 18 years old and is a student at Antelope Valley College. She was sponsored by Brian Fitzgerald. Sarah also won recognition as Miss Congeniality and Miss Photogenic.

Miss Princess Nicola Elizabeth Hamilton was recognized for her outstanding community service for raising the most money for the pageant. Her sponsors were P.J. deHaas Properties, The Lakes Community Center, Servpro and her family and friends.

Junior Miss Ashley Rich is 11 years old and is in 5th grade at HELUS. She was sponsored by Papa's Country Store.

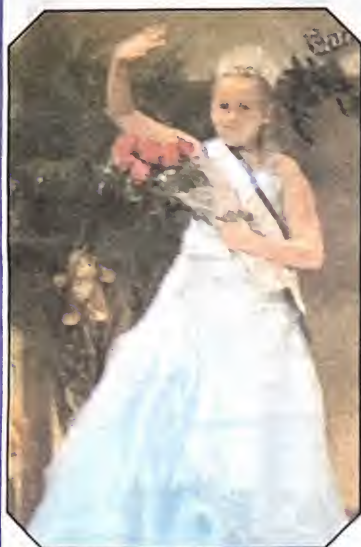
Little Miss Elyse Marie Carroll is 7 years old and is in 1st grade at HELUS. She was sponsored by Sheppard Concrete Construction. Elyse was recognized for her community service in raising money for the pageant.

Little Miss Princess Leah Lynette Werner is 5 years old and is in kindergarten at HELUS. Leah was sponsored by The Rock Inn, Mathison's Preschool, Fire Station 78, Papa's Country Store, Green Valley Cafe, the Post Offices ladies and her family and friends. Leah won Miss Congeniality and Miss Photogenic.

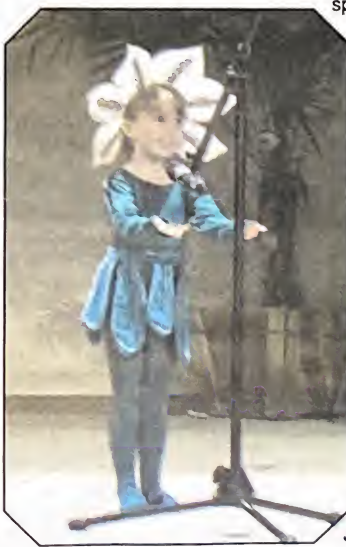
All the contestants were very charming and looked beautiful in their gowns. We were very proud of all the girls who entered!

In a surprise addition to the program, Holly Nemback, who has overseen the pageants for 10 years, was crowned honorary Mrs. Lakes.

The Lakes pageant committee consisted of Cindy Alcott and Heidi Gesiriech; choreography was done by Amber Kendall, who was also the mistress of ceremonies; and audio and lighting was handled by Dulce Jung and Scott Lawson. Heidi Gesiriech designed the program and Holly Nemback was in charge of formal portraits.



Junior Miss Ashley Rich takes her first walk.



Little Miss princess Leah Werner does her commercial.



Honorary Mrs. Lakes, Holly Nemback, with 2009 Miss Lakes, Carolyn Kendall.

This 'n That

Leona Valley Important Person Saluted by LVIA



LVIA President Sarah Clayton presents Leona Valley resident Rich Thomas with a Certificate of Appreciation as the month's Leona Valley Important Person. Photo: Dahlia Grossman

Reprinted with permission from Leona Valley Cherry Chapters newsletter

By Christine Stoddard

Rich and Mary Thomas have lived in Leona Valley for seven and a half years. He hadn't participated in volunteer work until the couple moved here. Having just retired he thought it would give him something to do and would be a way to meet people.

Rich is a third generation native Southern Californian who lived in El Segundo through high school graduation.

He and Mary have been married for more than 50 years and have two children and at least five grandchildren. Rich holds a bachelor and master of arts degree in education from California State University that took him 12 years of night school to earn; he has taught at high school, college and university levels.

He has held various management positions in industry and retired, in 1999, from American Honda Motor Co. as executive vice president and member of the board of directors.

He started serving on the Leona Valley Town Council in 2004, was an alternate for one year, then vice president, then served three years as president. Rich has been involved with many issues that have come before the council, attended various meetings with government officials and reviewed, with commentary, projects submitted to L.A. County Regional Planning Department.

He has chaired the development committee and the long range plan committee.

To add to this list of a man who gives his all to his community he has also served as president and chairman of the board of directors of Leona Valley SERTOMA club and is still very active with that great organization.

Sertoma Helps Lakes Little League



The generous folks of Leona Valley Sertoma donated \$200 to The Lakes Little League to help them buy equipment. Photo: Christine Stoddard. Sertoma has breakfast meetings at Crazy Otto's on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 8 a.m.

Jolie Reisner Inducted into Prestigious Int'l Honor Society

Jolie Reisner, granddaughter of Lakes resident Ellie Reisner, is one of 50 students nationwide to be inducted into the prestigious American Hebrew Academy Honor Society. Jolie is a student at Hochberg Preparatory School in Hollywood, Florida.

The Academy, in Greensboro, North Carolina, is America's premier Jewish pluralistic college prep boarding school. The Honor Society was formed to identify the most outstanding 8th grade Jewish students from around the world. The search has produced hundreds of nominations. All Honor Society inductees were invited to the Academy's beautiful 100-acre campus for a scholars weekend to be held in March.

"To be named a member of the American Hebrew Academy Honor Society is a great achievement," says Mark Spielman, director of the Honor Society. "We look forward to meeting each of the honorees and following their successes as they make great contributions to our society." Students selected to participate in the scholars program have exhibited an impressive set of accomplishments, given their age. Jolie was chosen by the selection committee because of her intellectual curiosity, artistic talent and commitment to Judaism.

During the Scholars Weekend, all honor society nominees engaged in an exceptional program on leadership that included riveting discussions, fascinating classes and renowned speakers. All honor society students were acknowledged at an induction ceremony and had the opportunity to win one of five annual scholarships worth \$20,000/year to attend the American Hebrew Academy.



HELUS Spelling Bee Winners



Grade 7



Grade 6

Photos: Anja Whitemyer, More photos, next month. See page 8 for names of winners.



Grade 5



Grade 8



Grade 4



Grade 2



Photos: Sharon Lehner and Dahlia Grossman.

Lakes Valentine's Dinner / Dance

The Lakes Community Center's Valentine's Dinner and Dance was a great success. The food - provided by Brian Gross of the Heritage Room (formerly the Sapphire Room) at the golf course - was outstanding and everyone enjoyed dancing to the music of the Working Stiffs, featuring Al Glodan of Leona Valley.

We were happy to see some friends from Leona Valley and Green Valley attending the event too. It's always more fun when our "Valleys" friends join us!

All the money raised will go into our building fund for the community center.

A special thanks to Merrie Profitt, Sharon and Bud Lehner, Linda and Tom Joynt and Dahlia Grossman for organizing the event.



Russ Williams announced his candidacy for Lakes Honorary Mayor.



Thank You, Subscribers

Thank you to the following, who renewed their subscriptions to The Mountain Yodeler during March:

Lake Hughes/Elizabeth Lake

Steven Littman
Nick and Christie Stone
Lynnell Parker
Alton Smith
Fred Wolf
Bill and Irene Riddle
James and Karolyn Eckmann
Joseph Brong
Scott and Claire Scott
Babs Graham
Sandy Miller
Anthony and Deena Benz
Joseph Brong
Mary and John Stilson
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Tom Kaucher
Paul and Yvonne Stainthorpe
Melanie Dohn and James Walker
Paul and Debra Burkman
Linda Schulz
Sid and Joan Shoemaker
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Green Valley

Donna Romero
Tim and JJ Klein
Greg and Cindy Lindaman
Gerry and Kathy Anderson
Joyce Hatton
Robert and Annetta Pritchard
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Leona Valley

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Pete and Margaret Kennedy
William and Geri Bryan
Lana and John Seymour
Richard Floyd
Steve and Sandra Ordway
Michael and Flora Herman
Michael and Nancy Pohl
Michael and Cathie Wilson
Mike Waters
Fran Neely
Donald and Carolyn Blumenshein
Bill and Geri Bryan
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Jeffrey and Denise Shanks

Barbara Heins
Diane Klausen

Neenach
Ellie Reisner

Palmdale
Tita Margaretten

Saugus
Ray and Glenda Lundberg

A few of you let me know that you got the wrong letter. I'm sorry about that. Also, if you are a lifetime subscriber and you get a letter by mistake, feel free to ignore it.

For those who have never sent a donation by subscribing to your local paper, I hope you will consider it some time this year. Many large newspapers are going out of business and I do not want *The Mountain Yodeler* to follow that path. We have very few advertisers left and your subscriptions are needed to keep the paper going.

Please send your check to
Mountain Yodeler
Box 444
Lake Hughes, CA 93532

Green Valley Citizen of the Month Kevin Francis

By Glenn McConnell

This month we recognize long-time Green Valley resident, Kevin Francis. Kevin moved to the valley in July of 1985. He raised two children in Green Valley, Nikole, who is now 20 years old and Ryder, now 16 years old.

Kevin grew up in the South Bay area (Hawthorne and El Segundo). He has always been an outdoors sort of guy. Kevin loves loading up his motor home and heading to the great outdoors. Riding motorcycles and quads are at the top of his list. You will know you have found Kevin's campsite when you hear country or classic rock music and smell the Mexican food cooking.

Because of his passion for the outdoors and nature it is easy to see why Kevin is a landscaping contractor. He is able to transform an ordinary landscape into a masterpiece.

Kevin is one of our two firemen assigned to Green Valley, Station 157. Kevin volunteered about a year and a half ago. Bob Porter is our call fire foreman and has been a volunteer for the past 23 years.

Kevin loves serving his community. The training has not been easy but the rewards are great. If Kevin had not stepped up to the plate, there is a good likelihood that our Green Valley firehouse would have been closed.

As a police officer for the past 35 years, I have had the pleasure of working side by side with the fire personnel on many occasions. You will not find a better group of folks. If you have a desire to serve your community, now is the time to step up and be counted. Call Station 78 in Lake Hughes at 724-1311 and ask to speak to the on-duty fire captain.

Kevin, thanks for your service to our community. You are truly one of Green Valley's finest.



HUGE YARD SALE MAY 1

Don't miss the **Woman's Club's** annual yard sale on May 1 in the parking lot of the Lakes Community Center from 8 to 3.

If you would like to donate some items for us to sell, please either bring them on the day of the event between 6 and 10 am or call 724-2382 (Elizabeth Lake) or 724-1293 (Lake Hughes) for pickup any time during April. (See ad, page 3)

LAKES WOMANS CLUB

NEXT REGULAR MEETING
Wed., April 14 at 7 pm
Lakes Community Center

*All Lakes and Valleys
women welcome!*

For information about joining the Lakes
Womans Club, call Judy at 724-2382.



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Dumptruck, tractor and full-size backhoe
services for your earth moving needs.

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Fill Dirt and Decomposed Granite Available
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Serving the Lakes and Valleys for over 15 years.

FREE ESTIMATES

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23814 WEST AVE. D-12, NEENACH

Soldiers Page

By Jan Carlson, staff writer
This past weekend in a nearby town a memorial service was held for an American hero. One of our soldiers who was killed in Afghanistan in the past few weeks.

The streets were lined with people waving flags and holding up slogans, pictures and ribbons.

Driving to work this morning, some of the banners were still hanging with the soldier's picture on them and good wishes for the family.

It is a wonderful occasion when we can participate in honoring "one of our own" who has sacrificed so much for us.

But as I see the remnants of the parade for this soldier, I ask myself why do we not do this for every soldier who has lost their life? Is it because the family does not want it? Is it because it costs too much money? Is it because it doesn't fit into some kind of schedule? Or is it because we have gotten too laid back as far as the war goes? Or because we don't take the time to remember what they have done for us?

I, myself, believe every single soldier deserves a parade. And especially if they have given their life for our country.

We live in a country where adults no longer salute the flag in a parade, but they enjoy the freedom it brings.

A poll I saw recently stated about 40 percent of adults now are not as patriotic as their parents. Why?

Think about it!

Thanks again to all of you who keep supporting the servicemen and servicewomen! You are all very special to the soldiers whether you know it or not. They enjoy receiving cards and packages from everyone.

They share everything that is sent and are happy to see what is in each box as they open it.

This month we are showing some pictures of Brandon Warren, one of the newer soldiers on our list. He is from Georgia and really appreciates all the packages he has received from us! Write to him and let him know how much you appreciate what he is doing for us and send your facebook and/or email address, too!

Also, a photo of our grandson, David McGeary, who just graduated from Marine boot camp. We are very proud of David! David is from Wrightwood, CA.

I know I am speaking for all the soldiers/sailors on our list when I say thanks for all the good stuff that has been dropped off lately. More packages are ready to go as this is written.

It will be getting warmer soon in Iraq and Afghanistan, so we will need neck coolers (hint! to whoever makes them and can donate them.)

The usual, jerky, candy, pop top foods, gum, toiletries, Girl Scout cookies, paperback books, games, playing cards, magazines, etc. With Easter coming up, we will be getting Easter boxes ready to send. Easter candy, games, little stuffed toys, stickers, etc. Anything fun for them.

One of the nurses at Henry Mayo Hospital donated a lot of Girl Scout cookies for the troops! Support our troops!!

If you want to donate items for the boxes, call Jan or Al at 724-0141, or drop it off at 43008 Lesina Dr., Lake Elizabeth.

SOLDIERS LIST APRIL 2010
DC2 BAXTER, JONATHAN
ER DIV/ENG
USS MILIUS DDG 69
FPO AP 96672-1286

SN JANDREW
USS-SHILOH CG 67
OD-DIV
FPO AP 96678-118

AOAN HAGERTY, JOSHUA
Box 22
U.S. JOHN C. STENNIS
CVN 74
FPO AP 96615-2874

NELSON, ZACHARY
DCO 6-101-AVN
FOB BAGGRAN
APO AE 09354

SPC DONATH, OWEN
B TROOP 38LRS ABN
FOB SYKES
APO AE 09351

SrA HEIDI TULEY
332 EMXS/ARMAMENT
APO AE 09315-9997

PFC RICHARDSON, JAROD O.
HHC 2/6TH INF MORTARS
AMP CARVERS
2 BCT 1 AD
APO AE 09308

SPC RICHARDSON, JACOB
US NIC APO AE 09780
SGT. JONES, MATTHEW
205 TH ASMC
APO AE 09375-0531

SGT. SPRATT, TREVOR A.
MWSS-371 S-6
UNIT 43040
FPO AP 96427-3040

WALTER BAXTER
ALPHA COMPANY, UASTB
FORT HUACHUCA, AZ
85613

SPC ROBERT R. YORK
5/2 SBCT 1-17 IN BN
C. CO HQ PLATOON
(FOB TRONTENAC)
APO AE 09355

LCPL RYAN DASCENZO
3D AABN CO.
2 PLT UNIT 40585
FPO AP 96610 0586

LCPL KALMAN, R.W.
¼ H + S BASE JUMP
UNIT 41605
FPO AP 96427-1605

BRANDON WARREN
FSC 1-64 AR
FOB Q WEST
APO AE 09351

An Old Marines Story

I just wanted to get the day over with and go down to Smokey's. Sneaking a look at my watch, I saw the time, 1655. Five minutes to go before the cemetery gates are closed for the day. Full dress was hot in the August sun.

Oklahoma summertime was as bad as ever--the heat and humidity at the same level--both too high. I saw the car pull into the drive, '69 or '70 model Cadillac Deville, looked factory-new. It pulled into the parking lot at snail's pace.

An old woman got out so slow I thought she was paralyzed; she had a cane and a sheaf of flowers--about four or five bunches as best I could tell. I couldn't help myself. The thought came unwanted, and left a slightly bitter taste: 'She's going to spend an hour, and for this old soldier, my hip hurts like hell and I'm ready to get

out of here right now! But for this day, my duty was to assist anyone coming in. Kevin would lock the 'In' gate and if I could hurry the old biddy along, we might make it to Smokey's in time. I broke post attention. My hip made gritty noises when I took the first step and the pain went up a notch. I must have made a real military sight: middle-aged man with a small pot gut and half a limp, in marine full-dress uniform, which had lost its razor crease about thirty minutes after I began the twelfth at the cemetery. I stopped in front of her, halfway up the walk. She looked up at me with an old woman's squint.

"Ma'am, may I assist you in any way?" She took long enough to answer. "Yes, son. Can you carry these flowers? I seem to be moving a tad slow these days." "My pleasure, ma'am. Well, it wasn't too much of a lie."

She looked again. "Marine, where were you stationed?" "Vietnam, ma'am. Ground-pounder. 69 to 71." She looked at me closer. "Wounded in action, I see. Well done Marine. I'll be as quick as I can." I lied a little bigger: "No hurry, ma'am." She smiled and winked at me. "Son, I'm 85-years-old and I can tell a lie from a long way off. Let's get this done. Might be the last time I can do this."

My name's Joanne Wieserman, and I've a few Marines I'd like to see one more time."

"Yes, ma'am. At your service." She headed for the World War II section, stopping at a stone. She picked one of the flowers out of my arm and laid it on top of the stone. She murmured something I couldn't quite make out. The name on the marble was Donald S. Davidson, USMC: France 1918.

She turned away and made a straight line for the World War II section, stopping at one stone. I saw a tear slowly tracking its way down her cheek. She put a bunch on a stone; the name was Stephen X. Davidson, USMC, 1943.

She went up the row a ways and laid another bunch on a stone, Stanley J. Wieserman, USMC, 1944. She paused for a second. "Two more, son, and we'll be done" I almost didn't say anything, but, "Yes, ma'am. Take your time." She looked

confused. "Where's the Vietnam section, son? I seem to have lost my way." I pointed with my chin. "That way, ma'am." "Oh!" she chuckled quietly. "Son, me and old age ain't too friendly."

She headed down the walk I'd pointed at. She stopped at a couple of stones before she found the ones she wanted. She placed a bunch on Larry Wieserman, USMC, 1968, and the last on Darrel Wieserman, USMC, 1970. She stood there and murmured a few words I still couldn't make out.

"OK, son, I'm finished. Get me back to my car and you can go home." "Yes, ma'am. If I may ask, were those your kin-folk?" She paused. "Yes, Donald Davidson was my father, Stephen was my uncle, Stanley was my husband, Larry and Darrel were our sons. All killed in action, all marines."

She stopped. Whether she had finished, or couldn't finish, I don't know. She made her way to her car, slowly and painfully.

I waited for a polite distance to come between us and then double-timed it over to Kevin, waiting by the car. "Get to the Out gate quick. I have something I've got to do."

Kevin started to say something, but saw the look I gave him. He broke the rules to get us there down the service road. We beat her. She hadn't made it around the rotunda yet. "Kevin, stand at attention next to the gatepost. Follow my lead."

I humped it across the drive to the other post. When the Cadillac came pattering around from the hedges and began the short straight traverse to the gate,

I called in my best gunny's voice: "TehenHut! Present Haaaarms!"

I have to hand it to Kevin; he never blinked an eye--full dress attention and a salute that would make his DI proud.

She drove through that gate with two old worn-out soldiers giving her a send-off she deserved, for service rendered to her country, and for knowing duty, honor and sacrifice.

I am not sure, but I think I saw a salute returned from that Cadillac.

Instead of 'The End,
' JUST THINK OF 'TAPS



BRANDON WARREN



DAVID Mc GEARY

Letter to The Lakes Town Council

March 6, 2010

Dear Members of The Lakes Town Council,

In March of last year, the Lakes and Valleys Conservancy was formed in order to preserve and protect Elizabeth Lake-Private from development. Recognizing the calamity that would befall our community with the possible introduction of high impact water sports and development, the Conservancy moved quickly into action. We are awaiting 501 © (3) nonprofit status from the IRS.

Elizabeth Lake is the largest natural lake in Los Angeles County and serves as the headwaters to the Santa Clara River. It lies within a proposed Significant Ecological Area (SEA) and between two existing SEAs. The entire area provides vital wildlife corridors. Biological surveys commissioned by the seller of the lake reveal some 177 species of wildlife, including a number of special-status species.

The Conservancy sent out information packages to various elected officials and other agencies and we continue to follow up on the leads and referrals we received. We were contacted by Senator Dianne Feinstein's office and last summer I gave her field representative an educational tour of the area and the lake.

Members of The Lakes Town Council and the Conservancy traveled to Sacramento and met with Assemblywoman Audra Strickland, who was sympathetic to our cause.

Los Angeles County Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich has spoken in favor of preserving and protecting Elizabeth Lake-Private.

Both ABC Channel 7 and the Los Angeles Times contacted the Conservancy and ran stories. The Conservancy is putting together a press reel to send out to potential donors to generate even more interest. We will be sponsoring upcoming "Friends of the Lake" events to raise awareness and funds. These events will be widely publicized.

The Lakes and Valleys Conservancy is committed to the conservation and preservation of unprotected natural areas of the entire lakes and valleys – not just Elizabeth Lake.

There are some very large land parcels adjacent to the lake that are vulnerable to development that, if developed, would dramatically change all of our lives.

Additional transmission lines, to pro-

vide power to other communities, ripping through the area would not only be an ugly blemish upon the landscape, but a menace to homeowners whose land lies in their path and a serious fire hazard.

In addition, all of the attendant traffic, noise, air and septic pollution would endanger the peace and tranquility that members of our community have come to treasure. This is the same peace and tranquility that members of our wildlife community depend upon as vital to the integrity and health of their habitat.

These are Conservancy concerns, these are council concerns; these are community concerns and these are County concerns. I believe that we must all do what is necessary to preserve our lake, the surrounding hills and the people and wildlife, alike, who call this area "home". This needs to be a concerted effort – everyone must speak out and do their part.

The question we must ask ourselves is this: How can we most effectively use our resources to safeguard both people and nature? We can be proactive and not reactive. We must be well informed. We must coordinate with County and State agencies so that we are apprised of any new developments that may affect our community. We can reach out to other organizations and our neighbors for assistance.

The marine biologist Jacques Cousteau, after saving a wounded otter, said to his son, "People protect what they love."

Children who grow up here in the lakes and valleys have the benefit of playing in the outdoors and they enjoy a quality of life that is diminishing by the hour in the rest of the country, indeed in the world. It is incumbent upon us all to stand up and help preserve this priceless way of life for our children and our wildlife.

For years, I have hiked these hills; I've slept under the stars; I've marveled at meteor showers with neighbors who have become dear friends. I swim in Elizabeth Lake. We all have things about the area that mean so much to us. This is what motivates me because people protect what they love.

Sincerely,
Louisa Stephen, President
Lakes and Valleys Conservancy

Seerelated article, page 7.

Kailee Campbell to Represent HELUS at Spelling Bee

Kailee Campbell will represent the HELUS school district by going on to the Los Angeles Countywide Spelling Bee.

Kailee likes listening to audiobooks and reading fictional books, such as *Harry Potter* and *Artemis Fowl*.

He plays airsoft, video games and enjoys making animations on his D.S.I. handheld game system.

Kailee enjoys playing all genres of music on the piano.

He rides his skateboard locally and his quad out in the Antelope Valley desert.

Kailee also loves writing and hopes to publish his stories someday.



Kailee Campbell, 6th grade winner of the HELUS District Spelling Bee

Big Kids' Book Corner: *Graceling* by Kristin Cashore

Reviewed By Dawn Baertlein

Katsa is beautiful, with her one blue eye and one green, but the different colored eyes mark her as a Graceling, one graced with special talent. A Grace can be anything from the ability to dance magnificently, tell fascinating stories, or swim with great speed.

Katsa's Grace is her undefeatable ability to fight. She and the world discovered her grace unexpectedly when at eight years old she accidentally killed a man. The leering lecher reaching for her leg may have deserved to die, but she had not intended it.

A Grace of such power attracted the attention of Katsa's uncle, king of one of the seven kingdoms. He swiftly had her trained by his best fighters, and by the time she was 16 he'd retained her as a henchman to enforce his tyrannical laws and whims.

This was not the life Katsa would have chosen for herself, and as a secret act of rebellion she formed the Council to defend those unfairly persecuted. As the book opens she is rescuing the kidnapped elderly father of one of the other area kings, though why he's been kidnapped no one knows.

Graceling's characters are deep and conflicted. Katsa is so physically strong and able to take care of herself that she has difficulty with friendships, and she cannot even comprehend such a thing as marriage. Any sort of dependence on another person is out of the question.

Then she meets Prince Po, the grandson of the man she has just rescued. Prince Po is also a Graceling, with his own secrets and demons. He's almost as good a fighter as Katsa, and as they spar every day, sharpening their skills, they grow ever closer, even as Katsa struggles to remain apart.

Between political intrigue, romance, action and adventure, this book had me riveted from page one. The strong, intelligent Katsa trying to find her place in a world made mostly for men is an interesting study as well.

Graceling is recommended for ages 14 and up. Due to violence and romantic themes, it is for the older YA (young adult) crowd and even adults who enjoy fantasy adventure.

Happy reading!

Real Estate Market: Boom or Bust? - Focus on Your Neighborhood

By Linda Marcella Berg
Contributing writer

I thought many of you would be interested in seeing the local real estate sales in the last six months, just to keep a pulse on the activity in our own backyard within our three main communities.

I've narrowed the last six-month activity within Leona Valley, Lake Hughes/Lake Elizabeth, and Green Valley. I've categorized the sales into the lowest range of sales, mid-range, and the very highest.

Here's what has been reported in the local Multiple Listing Service (Greater Antelope Valley Association of Realtors).

That means there were a few purchases sold privately without being recorded in the MLS which would not show here. It should also be noted that these sales are public record and can be accessed through a title company. Keeping that in mind, here's what we have:

Sales in Leona Valley in the last six months (These 6 were the only sales recorded on the MLS during the last 6 months in Leona Valley.)

Lowest Range

9531 Northside Drive, built in 1979, 3+2, 1817 sq.ft., 7.65 acres, sold on 10/9/09 for 195,668, bank-owned property.

8844 Leona Avenue: built in 1952, 3+2, 1500 sq.ft., 1.35 acres, sold on 10/8/09 for 279,000, bank-owned property.

Middle Range

9730 Northside Drive, built in 1990, 3+2, 2034 sq.ft., 2.34 acres, sold on 12/18/09 for 300,000, short sale property.

40307 Flintrock Road, built in 2004, 3+2, 2314 sq.ft., 3.12 acres, sold on 9/16/09 for 300,000, short sale property.

Highest Range

40060 75th Street West, built in 1970, 3 + 2, 2266 sq.ft., 2.5 acres, sold on 10/14/09 for 310,000, bank-owned.

9145 Northside Drive, built in 2004, 4 + 3, 2499 sq.ft., 11.77 acres, sold on 12/15/09 for 360,000, bank-owned.

Leona Valley has yet to recover the higher-end sales of 500K or above from a few years ago. However, it undoubtedly will recover eventually because the value is still there, and Leona is still considered to be the higher echelon of fine homes with larger acreage of the three communities in the area.

Sales in Lake Hughes / Lake Elizabeth in the past six months

Lowest Range

43733 Muir Drive, Lake Hughes, built in 1941, 3+2, 933 sq.ft., 6543 sq.ft. lot, sold on 3/1/10 for 53,250, HUD-home.

43690 Trail K, Lake Hughes, built in 1929, 3+1, 836 sq.ft., 4500 sq.ft. lot, sold on 9/24/09 for 64,000, bank-owned.

42705 Alderwood, Lake Elizabeth, built in 1968, 2+1, 640 sq. ft., 5014 sq.ft. lot, sold on 1/26/10 for 75,000, bank-owned.

Middle Range

14765 Elizabeth Lake Rd, Lake Elizabeth, built in 1996, 3+2, 1464 sq.ft., 5998 sq.ft. lot, sold on 12/8/09 for 139,900, bank-owned.

14855 Ripton Rd, Lake Elizabeth, built in 2004, 3+2, 1514 sq.ft., 7100 sq.ft. lot, sold on 9/16/09 for 156,800, bank-owned.

42820 Ranch Club Road, Lake Elizabeth, built in 1989, 2+2, 1175 sq.ft., 5280 sq.ft. lot, sold on 2/26/10 for

160,000, bank-owned.

Highest Range

42766 Bluehills Drive, Lake Elizabeth, built in 1990, 4+2, 1873 sq.ft., 10,000 sq.ft. lot, sold on 2/1/10 for 240,000, bank-owned.

42835 Bluehills Drive, Lake Elizabeth, built in 1988, 3+2, 2254 sq.ft., 10,000 sq.ft. lot, sold on 12/29/09 for 260,000, regular sale.

14314 Kiptree Drive, Lake Elizabeth, built in 1977, 4+4, 4000 sq.ft., 5 acre lot, sold on 10/8/09 for 300,000, short sale.

As you can see, there are great deals transacting in the Lakes area with still more to come as additional bank-owned homes are released.

Many investors are buying for rental purposes in this area, as well. P.J. DeHaas Properties, Inc. has their own rental/property management division which is very convenient for investors to utilize their services after purchasing the rental homes.

Sales in Green Valley in the past six months

Lowest Range

15412 Calle San Luis Potosi, built in 1953, 1+1, 768 sq.ft., 4748 sq.ft. lot, sold on 1/19/10 for 57,600, bank-owned.

15137 Spunky Canyon Road, built in 1956, 1+1, 890 sq.ft., 13,351 sq.ft. lot, sold on 12/30/09 for 62,500, bank-owned.

Middle Range

40244 Calle El Clavelito, built in 1950, 3+1, 1207 sq.ft., 16,849 sq.ft. lot, sold on 12/24/09 for 149,900, bank-owned.

39936 Calle El Clavelito, built in 1989, 3+2, 1702 sq. ft., 17,258 sq. ft. lot, sold on 2/10/10 for 160,000, bank-owned.

Highest Range

40115 Calle El Clavelito, built in 1969, 3+2, 1566 sq.ft., 19,998 sq. ft. lot, sold on 2/20/10 for 220,00, bank owned.

39910 Calle El Clavelito, built in 1999, 3+3, 2059 sq.ft., 11,626 sq.ft. lot, sold on 12/30/09 for 240,000, short sale.

You may have noticed that Calle El Clavelito was an extremely popular street for home sale transactions in Green Valley. Some of these Green Valley sales were obtained from the larger L.A. Multiple Listing Service (TEMPO), which I also have access to.

Green Valley is an artistic mixture of diversity with many gorgeous custom homes nestled into the softly rolling hills, surrounded by a small range of mountains and plenty of sprawling oak trees.

As a fairly new resident of this wonderful little town, I can see the potential for great value in the future

coming to fruition again.

However, for now we are seeing what all our local communities are experiencing, which is mainly bank-owned or short sale properties selling for approx. half of what our homes were selling for 3 years ago.

In closing, it's predicted that we will not see another over-inflated property value bubble for at least 10 years, and that means we can depend on a slow uphill climb of equity as a more reliable gauge of our home property values.

Happy Springtime, everyone!

Linda Marcella Berg, Realtor
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Website:
www.MarcellaSells.com
Email:
c21Marcella@yahoo.com



Our Bald Eagles have returned! Lakes Honorary Mayor Allaire Koslo spotted two juvenile eagles at Lake Elizabeth and made a quick call to Lakes Town Council President Jim Walker, who took this photo.

Back on the Economic Road

By Bob Mallicoat
Contributing writer

It's been a while since we've talked of economics. It's the cornerstone of life reality and there's little likelihood it will change. Gross excess use of credit at all levels from our personal finances to those of our governments are the primary engine that brought on this crisis of recession. In the minds of many, we haven't seen the bottom yet.

So far, in what has been labeled a recession, many of our people have paid a very high price. Loss of job with no realistic prospect of the next job, loss of home where the family finds its soundest rootings, personal finances wrecked by the above and the many years of misplaced confidence in the euphoric feeling that substantial savings for the future were unnecessary.

It's time to pause and try to learn from the devastating experience we've suddenly come to know. Yes, basic economics is center stage and to map a program best calculated to protect our families and what we've gained, we need to understand as best we can how such things work.

First, a primary premise is that continued success of any social system must be based upon a sound currency. We need to know that a contract we make today calling for the payment of dollars at some point in the future will not only be honored, but the dollars with which the debt is to be paid will have a purchasing power reasonably close to today's value.

Would you loan money with a promise to repay in three years if you know now that inflation would reduce the purchasing power of the repayment in those three years by 30 to 40%? If your promised retirement with income to you of so much a month would mean that a \$3 loaf of bread would cost \$4

or more upon your retirement in three years, would you graciously anticipate that as acceptable?

All kinds of activities we take for granted would end up in disarray. None of us could plan our future with any degree of certainty. Inability to plan with confidence leads to chaos.

Let's take a moment to reflect from an economic standpoint upon how we got to where we are today. Political forces play a major roll in this scenario. The political leader promises great benefits to you if you give him your vote. It all sounds good and what he promises is often labeled social progress.

From a federal point of view, we now have Social Security (predicted to go bankrupt by 2017), Medicaid and Medicaid (another significant burden upon our future national finances), the promise to take care of the poor through welfare in its many forms, the generous pensions to government employees along with very favorable retirement medical benefits, to say nothing about the hundreds of billions dolled out under the appellation of "stimulus" programs, special give-aways such as cash for clunkers, up to \$8,000 to a first-time home buyer, individual cash gifts to all taxpayers, and on and on.

Add to this promised blissful world and the accumulation of future monumental financial obligations, our states and cities who have also learned the wonders of bonded indebtedness, the folly of balancing their financial commitments against income and the wonderful euphoria of the credit card concept.

Many people wiser than I attribute our current recession experience to the abuse of the credit system at all levels. How does our leadership respond? By assuring as that we must reestab-

lish easy credit so people can once again have the instant gratification we're used to. Seems frighteningly similar to what got us to where we are today - with little real promise that the worst is over.

It would be unreal to suggest that our current economic debacle developed in a short period. It took time. Back in the early '30s Franklin Roosevelt decreed the end of the gold standard. Gold was real money and a \$20 paper certificate could be exchanged for an ounce of gold.

The politicians warmly welcomed the freedom provided by the dropping of the financial constraints on spending represented by the gold standard. However, we still had a lesser restraint upon unlimited federal spending as long as silver was in the monetary picture. Remember the silver certificate? Exchangeable for real silver.

Then along came Richard Nixon, who ordered the end of silver as part of our monetary stability in the '70s. Since then, it's been a politician's playground. Spend all you want while giving lip service to balancing the budget, indulge in manipulations misrepresenting the real annual increases in the cost of living index, and accelerate the quantity of future financial obligation by adopting new and costly claims on our future finances.

We're now being introduced to a grand new medical program with an appeal to many - someone else will pay my medical bills. But alas, we've found the magic formula - it's called a printing press - whatever money we need, we just crank up the presses and everything will be alright again.

More and more, the public is coming to see this as nonsense and frighteningly dangerous to us all. How often do you hear a politi-

cian talk of "sound money?" Oh yes, we'll reign in the budget as I sign on to support another big spending bill. Far more often than not, this fiat (phony) money the government prints pays for the growth of big or bigger government.

Enter the philosophy of socialism and the accompanying need for more fiat money injected into the system. Debasing the dollar is how we pay for the welfare state.

But what does this mean to you and me? We've lived a responsible life, paid our bills, and set aside savings to ensure a reasonably comfortable retirement. As more and more fiat money is pumped into the monetary system, increasing the volume of dollars chasing substantially the same amount of goods and services, a basic economic factor must give. Somewhat similar to the basic and fundamental rule of economics known simply as supply and demand.

We've seen gradual inflation over the years and we've come to accept it as a way of life. With that acceptance of a so-called "moderate" rate with inflation, we became accustomed to the insidious theft by our government of our money's value, as long as it was only "gradual." Today's dollar is reported to be worth about 30 cents compared to a 1970 dollar.

The next step, but never spoken of by our politicians, is the most destructive of all, hyperinflation.

It's a great way to avoid paying back our outstanding bond and other borrowing obligations. In the minds of a growing sector of our population, this "road to riches" and to a new comfort level portends the destruction of our country economically and guarantees the ruination of most planned retirements.

Many individuals, realiz-

ing for the first time that our federal government cannot be trusted, somewhat desperately ask themselves what they can do to protect themselves and their families?

I'm afraid no one has the magic solution. There are too many unknowns lying in wait in our future. Most conservative experts seem to find common ground in the investment concept of hard assets.

Real estate ownership (not highly leveraged), precious metals in personal possession, commodities we must all have to survive. Anything which is denominated in fixed dollars, such as bank accounts, bonds, notes, and the like are sure to continue to lose value as each day passes.

Stocks and the various mutual funds and similar investment vehicles require continued and extremely knowledgeable watching and such talents are often well beyond the abilities most of us possess in tricky times such as these.

While we can't offer a magic formula that will make it all go away, any investor should spend the time becoming as much of an expert as he possibly can and seek the advice of others who are not also involved in selling something such as annuities, insurance, stocks or bonds or anything else from which they might personally gain by your participation.

Financially speaking, these are and will be for some time down the road, risky times with most probably the worst yet to come. Give it all your best and most careful thought with an eye to developing a plan to meet the uncertainties which lie ahead.

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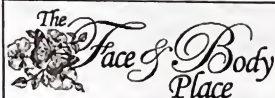
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WEATHER OR NOT?

Weather data for Elizabeth Lake area (Elevation 3450 ft.)

By Tom Kaucher

February 2010

Temperature

High- 65 on 2-17, 18 Low- 26 on 2-1
Average High-54.3 Average Low-34.0
Average Temperature- 44.1
Lowest High- 46 on 2-6, 9
Highest Low- 44 on 2-24

Precipitation

Precipitation-5.3" (0.10" Above Average
0.30" Above Last Year)
Seasonal Precipitation (7-1-09 to 2-28-10)-22.27"
(5.39" Above Average, 6.52" Above Last Year)
Snowfall- Trace Last year- Trace

Outlook for April 2010

With warmer temperatures of April, Spring is in full bloom. The rainy season comes to a quick end in April with just a few showers. There is a very slight chance for snowfall. Daytime highs will range from the high 50s to high 70s and overnight lows will range from the mid 30s to high 40s.

April Averages and Records

Temperature

High- 94 in 1989
Low- 27 in 1982, 1986 and 1999

Average high-67.5 Average low-41.9
Average temperature-54.7

Precipitation

Average precipitation- 1.00" 2009
Precipitation- 0.62"

Greatest precipitation- 4.73" in 2003
Average snowfall- .30"

Averages and records only depict data since 1976.

Weather facts for the year 2009

High- 106° on July 19th Low- 20° on January 5
Average High- 72.4° - 0.3° Below 2008, 1.9° Above Average
Average Low- 44.8° - 0.7° Below 2008, 0.7° Above Average
Average Temperature- 58.6° - 0.5° Below 2008, 0.8° Above Average

Precipitation (1-1-09 to 12-31-09)- 18.71" (6.67" Below 2008)
Greatest Monthly Precipitation - 7.35" in February
Greatest Monthly Snowfall- 5.0" in February
214 clear or mostly clear days, 151 cloudy or partly cloudy days

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